

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained, due to a personal family matter, and unable to be present for votes on June 23, 2008 and July 8, 2008.

Had I been present on June 23, I would have voted "yea" on each of rollcall Nos. 438, 439, and 440.

Had I been present on July 8, I would have voted "yea" on each of rollcall Nos. 471, 472, and 473.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT LELAND KNIGHT

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a true Texas hero. Teague Fire Chief Robert Leland Knight was killed in the line of duty on July 5th. He was only 42-years-old.

Chief Knight was a member of the Teague Volunteer Fire Department for almost 20 years. He became chief in 1999.

But his involvement in the community didn't stop there. He was also a volunteer paramedic, a member of the Boggy Masonic Lodge No. 739, and active in the First United Methodist Church.

He was also a proud graduate of Texas A&M University. I am honored to call myself an Aggie, not just because it is a great institution, but because it produces great men like Chief Knight.

Friends and family will tell you his love of his community and his alma mater were only trumped by one thing—his love of family. Chief Knight was a brother, a husband and a father. He is survived by his wife Terri Jo and his children—son, Trent and daughters, Layla and Laura.

My prayers are with Chief Knight's family and the town of Teague as they struggle to overcome this great loss. I hope they are comforted by the good memories and the examples of service to others he left with them.

Thousands of volunteer first responders put their lives on the line everyday. They run into burning buildings, respond to medical emergencies, and confront criminals—not because it's their job, but because they want to make their community a better, safer place.

Chief Knight made Teague and the State of Texas a better, safer place. Even though he is now gone, I am hopeful the way he lived will inspire a new generation of community volunteers because that would be the best way to honor this heroic man.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WARREN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual

whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Michael Warren is one of these individuals. On July 3, 2008, Michael retired after 14 years as the Chief of the Corona Fire Department and a celebration will be held this Saturday, July 12, 2008, in his honor.

Michael Warren was the Fire Chief for the City of Corona since May 1994 and also served as the Emergency Services Director for the City of Corona. In addition, Chief Warren serves as the Operational Area Mutual Aid Coordinator for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The Corona Fire Department currently employs a staff of 146 members and operates the suppression activities for the city from seven fire stations. In addition to being the Fire Chief, Chief Warren has served as the Acting Police Chief and Acting Utilities Director for the City of Corona. In his capacity as Fire Chief along with the "Acting" assignments he has worked closely with all of the other municipal departments creating collaborative solutions to city wide problems.

Chief Warren previously was the Deputy Chief for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/San Bernardino County Fire Department and Mutual Aid Operational Area Coordinator, and served with the U.S. Forest Service. He has over 36 years of experience in the fire service, serving on major emergency incidents throughout the United States. Chief Warren was a member of the National Emergency Incident Management Team. He has presented discussions on large scale emergency incident management to other state emergency organizations including the State of New York and at the International Association of Fire Chiefs conference.

Chief Warren was the President of the California Fire Chiefs Association from 2004–06, and held the Legislative Director position for the California Fire Chiefs Association. In addition, he serves on the Governor's Homeland Security Public Safety Advisory Council. Chief Warren was a member on the Public Safety Policy Committee for the League of California Cities, Vice Chair of the Inland Empire Affiliate of Burn Institute, is an active member of the board on Alternatives to Domestic Violence, and the Rotary Club. He was appointed to the California Emergency Council in 2006 by Governor Schwarzenegger. At the request of the Governor, Chief Warren has been Chairing the Blue Ribbon Commission Task Force since 2004.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Chief Warren was asked to serve as one of ten national experts on a nationwide program to assist other states in developing their own mutual aid programs and systems. He has worked with Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and Tennessee and is currently working with Utah, Nevada, Hawaii and Alaska. In the State of California, Chief Warren participates in discussions relative to amendments and changes to California's Mutual Aid program. In that capacity he also works directly with Federal Co-operators. Having served his entire career in the California Fire Service, he has participated in the development of ICS in the early 1970s up to and including the most recent discussions on revisions to the State's plan.

Chief Warren attended Chaffey College and Northern Arizona University, attaining degrees

and certificates in professional forestry, fire science and police science.

Chief Warren's expertise and tireless passion for the well-being and safety of the community has contributed immensely to the betterment of the City of Corona and the State of California. I am proud to call Michael a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

HONORING MORRISTOWN NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morristown National Historic Park, county of Morris, New Jersey, as we commemorate its 75th anniversary.

During two critical winters of the Revolutionary War, 1777 and 1779–80, the countryside in and around Morristown, New Jersey, sheltered the main encampments of the American Continental Army and served as the headquarters of its Commander-in-Chief, General George Washington. The winter of 1779–1780 is largely agreed upon by weather historians to be the worst winter of the 18th century, even worse than the winter of 1777–1778 at Valley Forge. But, due to better construction standards, proper sanitation, and better training, the winter of 1779–1780 turned out to be much more successful than prior winter at Valley Forge.

General Washington twice chose Morristown due to its strategic location, including proximity to New York City, defensible terrain, important communication routes, access to critical resources, and a supportive community. Morristown's location put it at the crossroads between supply lines connecting Philadelphia, and New England. And the town was close enough to New York to keep a watchful eye over the British encampment on Manhattan Island. This central location allowed Washington to move his army quickly to either New York or Philadelphia if need be. The park encompasses ground occupied by the army during the 1779–80 encampment, and the site of the fortification from the 1777 encampment.

The National Park consists of four non-contiguous units: Washington's Headquarters with the Ford mansion and headquarters museum, the Fort Mifflin Unit, the Jockey Hollow Unit, and the New Jersey Brigade Area. The Ford mansion, where Washington made his headquarters, is an important feature of the Park and recalls civilian contributions to the winning of our independence.

The Ford mansion has a very interesting history. It was built between 1772 and 1774 and was initially the home of COL Jacob Ford, Jr. Ford was a landowner, iron manufacturer, dedicated patriot, and colonel of the Eastern Battalion of New Jersey's militia. Through his command, Ford had participated in the first battle of Springfield. But, tragedy befell Ford shortly after the battle, when he was stricken with pneumonia. He died on January 10, 1777. After Jacob Ford's death, his widow Theodosia offered the mansion to General Washington to use as his winter quarters.

General Washington and his aide-de-camp Alexander Hamilton, would use the mansion to formulate strategy for many of the revolution's greatest campaigns. Washington also used the house to write some of the most important letters of the revolution. The Ford mansion housed some of the most important figures of the revolution including the Marquis de Lafayette, General Schuyler, General Nathaniel Greene, General Henry Knox, and the infamous general, turned traitor, Benedict Arnold. It has been said that the Ford mansion has housed more prominent figures known to the military history of our revolution than any other residence in America. It is because of this rich history, that Morristown has been cited as the military capital of the revolution.

On March 2, 1933, President Herbert Hoover signed Morristown National Historic Park into existence. It is the first National Historic Park in the United States. The park's mission is to interpret the extraordinary fortitude of the officers and enlisted men under Washington's leadership and the important subsequent commemoration of these crucial events of the American Revolution. The National Park Service and the Washington Association of New Jersey, a not-for-profit organization formed over 130 years ago to preserve Morristown's Revolutionary War landmarks, especially the Ford mansion, work to protect the landscape and historic resources of the Continental Army's winter encampments and other nearby Revolutionary War military and civilian sites for the benefit and inspiration of all. The Washington Association is the original keeper of the Ford mansion, also known as Washington's Headquarters, and continues to raise private funds for its renovations, and that of the museum, and its educational programs and remarkable archives.

The Washington Association of New Jersey was founded in Morristown in June 1873. On March 20, 1874, the New Jersey State Legislature chartered the Washington Association as a stock-granting corporation in New Jersey. The association would be responsible for preserving the mansion until 1933 when it was donated to the Federal Government, and designated the first National Historic Park.

The park's mission is to interpret the extraordinary fortitude of the officers and enlisted men under Washington's leadership and the important subsequent commemoration of these crucial events of the American Revolution.

Madam Speaker, for the past 75 years, the Morristown National Historic Park has been an educational and heartfelt piece of history in this district. I ask you, Madam Speaker, and my colleagues to honor the Morristown National Historic Park, its dedicated employees and its many volunteer supporters as our Nation's first historic park celebrates a very special 75th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DAN K.
MCNEILL

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN Dan K. McNeill on his retirement as commanding officer of the

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. General McNeill assumed command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on February 4, 2007, following a tour of duty as Commanding General, of the U.S. Army Forces Command, and the U.S. Army's force generation command.

General McNeill is a native son of Warsaw, North Carolina. He attended North Carolina State University (NCSU) where he began his military career. He graduated in 1968 with a bachelor of science degree in forestry and was commissioned as a second lieutenant of Infantry through the ROTC Program. In 1989, General McNeill graduated from the U.S. Army War College where he became a career infantry officer. He also attended United States Army Command and General Staff College.

General McNeill has held several positions throughout his military career, some of his past assignments include Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff, United States Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Commanding General of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where his duties include Combined Joint Task Force 180, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. And Assistant Chief of Staff G-3, XVIII Airborne Corps, including tours in Uphold Democracy, Operation Just Cause, Panama and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

GEN Dan K. McNeill's innovative leadership and unique vision have earned him widespread recognition. His numerous decorations and badges include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Legion of Merit (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Bronze Star Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), and Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters), all of which acknowledge General McNeill's unfailing commitment to improving the lives of his fellow Americans.

Madam Speaker, General McNeill is an exemplary figure of patriotism, leadership, dedication, and commitment. As a former soldier, I am proud to honor the career of GEN Dan K. McNeill today. I ask all of my colleagues to join my wife, Faye, and me in celebrating his 40 years of military service to the United States Army and to the State of North Carolina.

SOMETHING BIG IS HAPPENING

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I have, for the past 35 years, expressed my grave concern for the future of America. The course we have taken over the past century has threatened our liberties, security and prosperity. In spite of these long-held concerns, I have days—growing more frequent all the time—when I'm convinced the time is now upon us that some Big Events are about to occur. These fast-approaching events will not go unnoticed. They will affect all of us. They will not be limited to just some areas of our country. The world economy and political system will share in the chaos about to be unleashed.

Though the world has long suffered from the senselessness of wars that should have been

avoided, my greatest fear is that the course on which we find ourselves will bring even greater conflict and economic suffering to the innocent people of the world—unless we quickly change our ways.

America, with her traditions of free markets and property rights, led the way toward great wealth and progress throughout the world as well as at home. Since we have lost our confidence in the principles of liberty, self reliance, hard work and frugality, and instead took on empire building, financed through inflation and debt, all this has changed. This is indeed frightening and an historic event.

The problem we face is not new in history. Authoritarianism has been around a long time. For centuries, inflation and debt have been used by tyrants to hold power, promote aggression, and provide "bread and circuses" for the people. The notion that a country can afford "guns and butter" with no significant penalty existed even before the 1960s when it became a popular slogan. It was then, though, we were told the Vietnam War and a massive expansion of the welfare state were not problems. The seventies proved that assumption wrong.

Today things are different from even ancient times or the 1970s. There is something to the argument that we are now a global economy. The world has more people and is more integrated due to modern technology, communications, and travel. If modern technology had been used to promote the ideas of liberty, free markets, sound money and trade, it would have ushered in a new golden age—a globalism we could accept.

Instead, the wealth and freedom we now enjoy are shrinking and rest upon a fragile philosophic infrastructure. It is not unlike the levies and bridges in our own country that our system of war and welfare has caused us to ignore.

I'm fearful that my concerns have been legitimate and may even be worse than I first thought. They are now at our doorstep. Time is short for making a course correction before this grand experiment in liberty goes into deep hibernation.

There are reasons to believe this coming crisis is different and bigger than the world has ever experienced. Instead of using globalism in a positive fashion, it's been used to globalize all of the mistakes of the politicians, bureaucrats and central bankers.

Being an unchallenged sole superpower was never accepted by us with a sense of humility and respect. Our arrogance and aggressiveness have been used to promote a world empire backed by the most powerful army of history. This type of globalist intervention creates problems for all citizens of the world and fails to contribute to the well-being of the world's populations. Just think how our personal liberties have been trashed here at home in the last decade.

The financial crisis, still in its early stages, is apparent to everyone: gasoline prices over \$4 a gallon; skyrocketing education and medical-care costs; the collapse of the housing bubble; the bursting of the NASDAQ bubble; stock markets plunging; unemployment rising; massive underemployment; excessive government debt; and unmanageable personal debt. Little doubt exists as to whether we'll get stagflation. The question that will soon be asked is: When will the stagflation become an inflationary depression?